

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1-8. (canceled).**

**9. (currently amended):** A method for treating a herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus in a mammal, consisting essentially of administering MMP-7 to the affected site of the herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus in said mammal.

**10. (currently amended):** A method for treating a herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus in a mammal, consisting of administering MMP-7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to the affected site of the herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus in said mammal.